# Prisoner says he, mobster killed JFK

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By Marcella S. Kreiter
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CHICAGO — A convicted cop killer says that he and reputed mob hit man Charles "Chuck" Nicoletti were the gunmen responsible for the assassination of John F. Kennedy and that Lee Harvey Oswald's role was merely to confuse the evidence.

But the confession, obtained yesterday by UPI, has been rejected by the FBI as not credible. The confession is the latest among many interesting stories about the assassination.

## FBI discounts his credibility

James E. Files, in a confession due to be released to the public this week, says he was working as a driver for Nicoletti, who asked him on the day of the assassination if he would act as a backup shooter.

Files is serving a 50-year prison sentence for the murder of a Joliet, Ill., police officer and is incarcerated at Joliet State Prison. The interview was given March 22, 1994, to associates of a private detective who had tracked Files down and won his confidence.

Files, who appeared nervous throughout the questioning, said Nicoletti was the main gunman and Chicago mob figure Johnny Rosselli also was involved. He said Nicoletti got his orders from mob chieftain Sam "Momo" Giancana but Giancana likely got his orders from Anthony "Big Tuna" Accardo.

"I have no idea who ordered his assassination. . . . I don't think it was something Giancana would

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# JFK

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have engineered on his own," Files said. Giancana and JFK were said to have shared a mistress, Judith Exner.

Files, who said he was a former member of U.S. special operations forces in Laos, said he developed a dislike of Kennedy because of the Bay of Pigs fiasco. He said he had helped train the commandos and was upset when Kennedy failed to provide air support for the invasion, leading to its failure.

"I had never liked Kennedy since he backed down," Files said.

Files said he arrived in Dallas a week before the assassination, picked up and tested the weapons to be used, and cased Dealey Plaza.

The morning of the assassination, he said, he drove Rosselli, whom he described as the mob's liaison to the CIA, to a restaurant where he met with Jack Ruby and collected an envelope with a map and "Secret Service identification."

Files said he positioned himself at the stockade fence behind the "grassy knoll," which separates the motorcade route from a rail yard, and Nicoletti was in the Dal-Tex Building — one of three buildings police zeroed in on immediately after the shooting.

The Dal-Tex Building and the Dallas County Records Building, often cited by conspiracy theorists as possible sniper positions, are along the motorcade route on Houston Street. The shooting occurred shortly after the motorcade turned left from Houston Street onto Elm Street, where the Texas School Book Depository Building — from which Oswald is believed to have fired — and the grassy knoll are located.

Files said he was not supposed to fire his weapon unless Nicolletti failed to make a head shot. He said Kennedy was hit in the body but not the head as the limousine approached his position, adding that he was under orders not to hit Jacqueline Kennedy.

"I had zeroed in on the left side of the head [to Files' left]," Files said. "If I waited any longer, Jackie would have been in the line of fire. . . . As I fired that round, Mr. Nicolletti fired at the same time. The head went forward and then backward."

He said his bullet would have struck Kennedy just above the right eyebrow and exited through the back of the head.

Files said he was paid $30,000 for the hit several months later.

"To me it was like taking out the garbage," he said.

Nicoletti, Rosselli and Giancana were all slain between 1975 and 1977; Accardo died of natural causes.

Files said another person was involved in the plot but he refused to name him because the man still is alive.

Files described Oswald as very intelligent and far from the misfit he has been described as.

"I think his part was to plant evidence to confuse everybody. . . . Lee Harvey Oswald never fired a shot," Files said, adding that he doesn't think Oswald was the type of person to kill anyone.